

AGENDA

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND WORKFORCE SERVICES INTERIM COMMITTEE UTAH LEGISLATURE

Wednesday, June 18, 2014 • 9:00 a.m. • Room 20 House Building

Approximate
Time Frame

9:00

1. Committee Business

- Call to order
- Approval of the minutes of the May 21, 2014, meeting

9:05

2. Department of Workforce Services Assistance Programs

The Department of Workforce Services administers or determines eligibility for some 22 public assistance programs. In cooperation with the department, an updated summary has been prepared that briefly describes each program, including its purpose, eligibility requirements, benefit amounts and restrictions, administrative contact information, and statutory citations. The committee will hear a briefing on the programs from committee staff and further program descriptions, achievements, challenges, and long-term issues from the department.

- Benjamin N. Christensen, Policy Analyst, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel
- Jon S. Pierpont, Executive Director, Department of Workforce Services

9:45

3. Affordable Housing

Affordable housing is critical for the success of any economy. Current projections indicate that the Wasatch Front population will increase by nearly a million people in the next 15 to 20 years. New housing will be needed for the working middle class, as well as the working poor. What programs exist to assist with affordable housing for Utah residents? What affordable housing needs are projected? What changes will be needed to ensure affordable housing for Utah residents in the future?

- Peter Asplund, Associate General Counsel, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel
- Gordon D. Walker, Director, Housing and Community Development Division, Department of Workforce Services
- Grant S. Whitaker, President and CEO, Utah Housing Corporation
- Robert J. Grow, President and CEO, Envision Utah

10:45

4. Utah Workforce Services Code – Sunset Review (draft legislation)

Utah Code Title 35A, Utah Workforce Services Code, is the statutory basis for the administration of the Department of Workforce Services, its divisions, and its programs. Most of the programs are based in federal law with only minor state flexibility for administering the federal programs. Title 35A was enacted in its present form in 1996. The title, the department, and its programs will be repealed July 1, 2015, unless reauthorized by the Legislature. The committee will hear the department's recommendation on whether it should be reauthorized, allowed to sunset, or whether the Legislature should repeal the sunset provision entirely.

- Benjamin N. Christensen, Policy Analyst, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel
- Geoffrey Landward, Deputy Director, Department of Workforce Services

11:00

5. Abusive Workplace Conduct

Abusive workplace conduct is malicious, repeated, health-harming mistreatment: verbal abuse, threats, humiliation, intimidation, work sabotage, exploitation of a known vulnerability, or retaliation for ethical conduct. An abusive work environment exists when an employer or one or more of its employees, acting with intent to cause pain or distress to an employee, subjects that employee to abusive workplace conduct that causes physical harm, psychological harm, or both. The committee will hear a presentation on the prevalence and effect of abusive work environments and discuss potential legislative options.

- Rep. Keven J. Stratton
- Denise Halverson, Ph.D.

11:20

6. Other Committee Business / Adjourn